

**THE FREEDMAN'S HOSPITAL**

**Appointments and Supervision Still With  
the Secretary of the Interior.**

**An Opinion by the Assistant Attorney  
General on the Subject Sent  
to the Commissioner.**

The Secretary of the Interior has notified the Commissioners that the supervision of the appointments to and the general supervision of the Freedman's Hospital is still with the Secretary of the Interior.

This opinion, which was rendered by the assistant attorney general, was called forth by the applications of the attorneys of Dr. Charles B. Purvis, late surgeon in charge of Freedman's Hospital, who made application to the Commissioners for the recognition of Dr. Purvis as surgeon in charge of Freedman's Hospital, notwithstanding his resignation. They based their claim on the act of March 3, 1893, which they argued transferred the power of the Secretary of the Interior to make changes and appointments.

The opinion of the assistant attorney general on the subject is as follows:

"It appears that on February 15, 1894 Dr. Charles B. Purvis, surgeon-in-chief of the Freedman's Hospital, tendered, in writing, his resignation, of such office to the Secretary of the Interior, stating, among other things, that 'I infer that you desire my resignation as surgeon-in-chief of the

'Freeman's Hospital.' On the 27th of September, 1884, a letter signed by John M. Langston and George A. King, as attorneys for Dr. Purvis, was addressed to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, requesting said Commissioners to recognize Dr. Purvis as surgeon-in-chief of said hospital, notwithstanding his previous resignation, and presenting as ground for such action the statute of March 3, 1803 (27 stat., 537), by which, it is claimed, that the power of the Secretary to make appointments or removals in said hospital is taken away from him and conferred upon said Commissioners.

"The statute in question has received a different construction in the Interior Department; see annual report of the Secretary of the Interior for 1893, page 78; it became known that the act in question only transferred that portion of expenditures to the Commissioner leaving the supervisory duties of the appointments to, and the general administration of the institution as heretofore, with the Secretary of the Interior, and the view of said act has also been adopted by the Attorney General in his opinion of August 31, 1893.

"It would seem, therefore, that the question was fairly settled, and the position of

Misses. Langston and King is not well taken, and I therefore advise you that the act in question does not in any manner abridge the authority of the Secretary of the Interior in his supervisory control of appointments," he said.

"In the letter of said attorneys to the Commissioners of the District the following paragraph appears: 'We are informed by statements contained in the daily newspapers that Assistant Attorney General Hall of the Interior Department has given an official opinion in accordance with the views herein submitted.'

"I desire to say in connection with this

statement that if the newspapers so reported it was through error, for I have not had this question before me for consideration until the present time. On July 14, 1894, I did submit an opinion to the Secretary of the Interior to the effect that under said act the Secretary no longer had control of property purchased or said hospital.

"This view," you will observe, is consistent with the original construction of said statute, as noted in the foregoing, and no inconsistent with the opinion expressed herein."

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**LAID TO REST.**

**Impressive Last Rites Over the Late John T. Given.**

The remains of the late John T. Given were laid to rest with simple but very impressive services yesterday afternoon. A short service was held at the residence of the deceased, 924 I street northwest, by Rev. Dr. Stakely. Then the body was removed to the E Street Baptist Church under escort of the Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., of the District of Columbia, the Grand Encampment

Mount Nebo Encampment, No. 6; Washington Lodge, No. 6; the Veteran Volunteers Firemen's Association, the Patriarchs Militant, the Grand Canton, Potomac Canton, a detail from the Washington Light Infantry Corps, the board of directors of the Columbian University and the board of directors of the Washington Beneficial Endowment Association, the solemn procession being headed by the Fourth Artillery Band.

The band played "Nearer, My God, to Thee," as the casket was carried into the crowded church. The choir sang "Asleep in

The service was followed by prayer by Rev. Dr. Greene, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church. Rev. Dr. Stakely, pastor of First Baptist Church, read several appropriate scriptural passages. Afterward Dr. Greene, pastor of the E Street Baptist Church, presented a report on the life of the honored life of Mr. Cliven. "Thou Blot Rock of Ages, I'm Hiding in Thee," and the services were closed by prayer by Rev. Dr. Meador.

The interment was at Oak Hill cemetery where further services were conducted by the Odd Fellows.

The active pallbearers were Mr. Williams

F. Allan, grand representative, I. O. O. F.; Mr. John Chancey of the Patriarchs Militant; Dr. Aaron Baldwin of Mt. Nebo Encampment; Mr. M. French of Washington Lodge, No. 6, I. O. O. F.; Mr. John T. Suter of the Veteran Firemen's Association; and Mr. John F. Whitmore of the Grand Encampment, while Messrs. H. A. Willard, Hugh Targart, Robert Martin, J. Ormond Wilson, Professor Montague, Edgar Spedden and John Marbury, J. A. Wineburger and Roscoe Well Fisher were present at the services in the capacity of honorary pallbearers.

**The Fall Opening at McKnew's Largest  
ly Attended.**

One of the events of today of especial interest to the fair sex was the annual opening exhibit of the latest Paris and American styles at W. H. McKnew's. This exhibit will continue for the next two days. Ever since the war and through the changes of the firm up to the regime of R. H. Taylor, and then to that of his successor, Mr. W. H. McKnew, the house has been noted

as one of the leading coat, cloak and suit stores of the houses of the country. The store presented to the visitors a most animated scene today, the many visitors growing enthusiastic over the vogue of the coming season. It has been said that fashionable women have greater difficulty in appearing graceful and stylish in winter costumes on account of their having to secure comfort by wearing when the frost is in the air. It looks as if Mr. McKnew must have set out to refute this notion, for the elegance and shapefulness of the coats and capes shown by him today demonstrate that women can be com-

portable and stylish at the same time. All the various departments of ladies' furnishings are participating in the opening ceremonies. Mr. McKnew recently added bay windows to the D street entrance and has otherwise improved the interior and exterior of his establishment. The "opening" will be continued all the week, and it is hardly necessary for us to suggest going as early as very few ladies who follow the fashion could resist it were they to try.

Philadelphia has submitted to the Navy Department the lowest bid for the electric light plant at the League Island navy yard at the sum of \$8,875, which comes \$1,125 within the amount appropriated by Congress. The bid was received half an hour after the time allowed for the opening, but this was due to the lateness of the train bearing the special messenger of the company. The messenger telegraphed this fact to the department and the hour expired and the bid will probably be accepted, being over a hundred dollars less than the next highest.